There was a delay in issuance of Form 10 license in respect of Rifampicin, which was earlier in the restricted ITC(HS) classification of Export and Import Policy items 2002-07, and was made free by notification No. 02/(RE-2003)/2002-2007 dated 31.3.03. As this drug was earlier imported against Advance licence, to ascertain the testing and quality of the product, the Zonal Officer was requested to inform the factual position, which has now been received. Applications for Form 10 Import Licence in respect of Rifampicin have now been issued.

Birth /Mortality/Infant Mortality Rate

781. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the birth/death/infant mortality rate in Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and Jharkhand in the last decade;

(b) its comparison *vis-a-vis* the States like Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the birth rate as well as infant mortality rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Statements showing birth/death/infant mortality rates as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) are given in the enclosed Statement I, II & III (*See* below).

(c) The following steps are being taken by Government to reduce the birth rate as well as infant mortality rate:

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception-Copper T 380 A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February, 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister to focus on the unmet needs of demographically weaker States and to assist them in preparation of area specific plans for improving their performance, with emphasis on community mobilization and intersectoral coordination.
- No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) method (without a cut or a stitch) of male sterilization has been introduced to promote male participation in family planning programme since 1997.

Statement-I

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

Sl. No.	States	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
1	Madhya Pr.	35.8	34.9	34.9	33.0	33.2	32.3	31.9	30.7	31.1	31.4	30.8
2	Uttar Pr.	35.7	36.3	36.2	35.4	34.8	34.0	33.5	32.4	32.8	32.8	32.1
3	Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28.2	26.9	26.3	26.5	26.3
4	Orissa	28.8	27.8	27.2	28.0	27.8	27.0	26.5	25.7	24.1	24.3	23.4
5	Tamil Nadu	20.8	20.7	19.5	19.2	20.3	19.5	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.0
6	Gujarat	27.5	28.1	28.0	27.1	26.7	25.7	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.2	24.9
	All India	29.5	29.2	28.7	28.7	28.3	27.5	27.2	26.5	26.0	25.8	25.4

*Provisional

Source: Sample Registration System

Statement-II

Crude Death Rate (CDR)

Sl. No.	States	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
1	Madhya Pr.	13.8	12.9	12.6	11.6	11.2	11.1	11.0	11.2	10.4	10.2	10.0
2	Uttar Pr.	11.3	12.8	11.6	11.0	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.1
3	Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9.6	8.5	8.9	9.0	8.8
4	Orissa	12.8	11.7	12.2	11.2	10.8	10.8	10.9	11.1	10.7	10.5	10.2
5	Tamil Nadu	8.8	8.4	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.5	8.0	7.9	7.6
6	Gujarat	8.5	9.2	8.2	8.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.8
	All India	9.8	10.1	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.4

Source: SRS

*Provisional

NA-Not Available

Statement-III

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

Sl. No.	States	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001*
1	Madhya Pr.	117	104	106	98	99	97	94	98	90	87	86
2	Uttar Pr.	97	98	94	88	86	85	85	84	84	83	82
3	Jharkhand	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	68	62	71	70	62
4	Orissa	124	115	110	103	103	95	96	98	97	95	90
5	Tamil Nadu	57	58	56	59	54	53	53	53	52	51	49
6	Gujarat	69	67	58	64	62	61	62	64	63	62	60
	ALL INDIA	80	79	74	74	74	72	71	72	70	68	66

Source: Sample Registration System
NA Not Available
*Provisional

Slight problems among children

782. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that half of Delhi's School kids are unaware of sight problems;

(b) whether it is a fact that 25 per cent of the world's visually challenged people are in India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to change this scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per WHO, 15 per cent of the world's blind are in India. In order to reduce the prevalence of blindness in the country, the following steps are being taken:

(i) Free Cataract Surgery in Government/Non-Government Institutions and Camps;

(ii) Detection and Correction of Refractive Errors in School going children;